

The Examiner indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 7, 2000, did not include copies of all the references cited therein. A Supplemental Disclosure Statement was filed on October 5, 2000, which provided copies of the references which were not considered by the Examiner. It appears that this Information Disclosure Statement crossed in the mail with the present Office Action.

The Examiner does not consider the title descriptive. The title has been amended to be directed to the presently claimed invention.

Claims 10, 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims are considered indefinite due to a lack of proper antecedent basis for "said intrusion prevention film." Claim 9, line 7, is amended to change "a film" to read - an intrusion prevention film -.

Claims 9 - 13 and 15 - 18 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leong in view of Wolf et al. In this rejection, the Examiner acknowledges that Leong does not show forming a film to substantially prevent the impurities introduced into the first insulation film from entering the conductive layer prior to the step of forming the first insulation film.

To remedy the deficiencies of Leong, the Examiner applies the teaching of Wolf et al. Wolf et al. discloses use of an anti-reflective layer. Favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated by the teaching of Wolf et al. to have modified Leong as asserted by the Examiner. In particular, Wolf et al. discloses that the anti-reflective coating improves performance of resists. The anti-reflective coating is highly absorbing at the exposure wavelength. There is no suggestion provided by Wolf et al. that the anti-reflecting coating could function as the claimed intrusion prevention film.

In any event, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to the teaching of Wolf et al., particularly since it is directed to use of the anti-reflective coating in combination with a photoresist. This is in stark contrast to the claimed method which forms a first insulation film on a conductive layer wherein impurities are introduced into the first insulation film.

Thus, although Wolf et al. may be directed to an analogous art related to lithography in the manufacture of semiconductor devices, Wolf et al. is directed to an entirely different aspect from the claimed invention which introduces impurities into a first insulation film on a conductive layer.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leong in view of Wolf et al. and further in view of Wolf. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Wolf fails to provide the teaching which Leong and Wolf et al. lack, as discussed above.

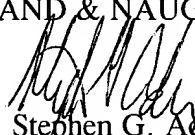
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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